

# UNION COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

<b>County Committee Members</b> <b>Curt VanBlokland</b> <b>Mary West</b> <b>Jim Murchison</b>	 <b>E-Mail <a href="mailto:jennifer.isley@or.usda.gov">jennifer.isley@or.usda.gov</a></b>	<b>Union County FSA Office</b> <b>10507 N. McAlister Rd., Rm. 2</b> <b>La Grande, OR 97850</b>
<b>Phone: (541) 963-4178 Ext. 2</b>	<b>November, 2006</b>	<b>FAX: (541) 962-1022</b>

OFFICE STAFF: Jennifer Isley CED, Tim Hines PT, Tara Hett PT  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

## DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM

Sign up is now underway for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Producers have until June 1, 2007 to submit all required signatures for this program. Producers signing after June 1<sup>st</sup> must pay a \$100 late file fee.

All producers will need to review payment limitations as well as highly erodible land and wetland conservation data at the time of sign up.

**Please note that the advance payment has been reduced to 22% of the direct payment. Advance payments will be available beginning in December with final payments being issued in October of 2007.**

Counter-Cyclical payments are available only when the national 12-month average price of a commodity falls below established levels (\$3.40/bu for wheat). Producers can request a 35% advance in October of 2006 and another 35% advance in February 2007.

Final Counter-Cyclical payments are determined 12 months after the crop year started (July 2007 for wheat). Remember that advances must be repaid if the final rate is above the payment level established for that crop.

## FCIC SALES CLOSING DATES

The 2007 sales closing dates for crop insurance are:

- Berries, Fruit, Honey: 11/20/06
- Barley, Oats, Dry Peas, Dry Beans, Sugar Beets: 3/15/07

## DIRECT DEPOSITS

If you change bank accounts or financial institutions it is extremely important that you notify FSA. All program payments are now made by direct deposit. If you change banks, your bank changes names, or you change accounts, and fail to notify us of the change, your payments will go to a suspense file in Kansas City until the correct account information is provided. This can cause lengthy delays in receiving payments from FSA. **Please notify us whenever you change banks, accounts, or your bank name changes!**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballots mailed to La Grande/Starkey producers
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Office closed
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day Office closed
- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Deadline to sign-up for EQIP (with NRCS)
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Deadline to return ballots for COC elections

## 2007 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

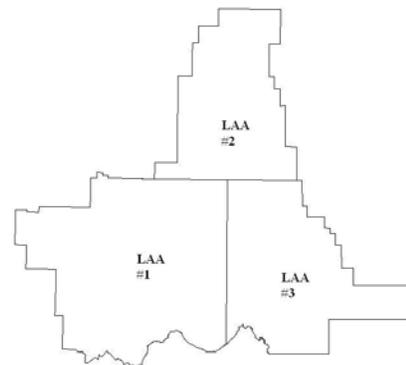
The election process is currently underway for LAA #1 (La Grande/Starkey). County Committee members are farmers or ranchers elected to serve a three year term on the Union County FSA Committee.

Candidates for County Committee from LAA #1 are: C. Todd Arnoldus and Guy Weishaar.

Todd Arnoldus lives on Michaelson Lane and farms west of Alicel. He produces wheat, barley and grass seed.

Guy Weisharr lives on Hwy 237. Weishaar Brothers produces grain, mint, grass seed, sugar beets and alfalfa.

Ballots will be mailed to producers in the La Grande and Starkey areas beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have not received a ballot by November 26<sup>th</sup> and you wish to vote please notify the FSA office and a substitute ballot will be issued. Ballots must be signed and returned to the office or postmarked by December 4, 2006. Remember, if your ballot is not signed it will not be counted!



## eGOV

Producers now have the option of conducting some business with the government online. Individuals with a level 2 access can sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program or the Loan Deficiency Payment Program online.

To register for a level 2 account you will need to access the following website:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>

After registering on this website you will need to visit the FSA office for identity verification. In addition, producers can inquire on any farm program financial transaction that has taken place in a county office that affects that producer, including payments, collections, debts and CCC-1099-G.

That website can be accessed at:

<http://customerstatement.usda.gov/>

#### **NEW INSURANCE PRODUCT FOR PASTURE, RANGELAND AND HAYLAND**

Producers in Union County and eight other Oregon counties will have the ability to insure their pasture, rangeland, and/or hayland for the 2007 crop year. The following are a few highlights of this new insurance product:

- Producers have the option of insuring all or part of their acreage
- Insurance period is April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Producers can select between 4, 3 month insurance intervals when determining the timing of coverage for the selected acreage.
- Loss benefits are based on the vegetation index factor for the selected acreage, not the insured's individual production. Producers can select either 70%, 75%, 80%, 85% or 90% of the vegetation index factor.
- The insured producer is covering a dollar amount per acre which is based on the county established base value for the crop, productivity factor for the selected crop and the producer buy-up coverage level.
- Sales closing date is November 30, 2006 for coverage in the 2007 crop year. For further information or to purchase a policy, contact your local crop insurance agent.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Funding is available in four different categories: Irrigation efficiency, range/livestock, forestry, and upland soil erosion (which includes direct seeding). There are some changes this year that provide incentives for management practices such as direct seeding and irrigation water management.

Producers will need to have a farm plan on file with NRCS in order to apply for EQIP. If you do not have a farm plan on file we recommend you apply early as you will need to complete a farm plan as part of your application.

Producers with CSP contracts may want to consider EQIP funded practices to move up a tier or to increase payments on soil STIR/SCI payments and irrigation efficiencies. For more information contact Mike or Eileen at 541-963-4178 ext. 3 or stop by the NRCS office in the Ag Service Center at 10507 N. McAlister Road, La Grande, OR 97850.